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Message Text

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22
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00

DLOS-04 OES-06 AGR-10 AID-05 FRB-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /091 W
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R 140755Z PAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9852
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSIKI 763

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

STOCKHOLM FOR AGRICULTURE ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH FOODSTUFFS WORKERS STRIKE AND ITS EFFECT ON
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

REF: HELSINKI 738

1. STRIKE OF FINNISH FOODSTUFFS WORKERS WAS TERMINATED
ON APRIL 8, AFTER HAVING LASTED FOR TWO-WEEK PERIOD.
FARMERS, FOOD PROCESSORS AS WELL AS GENERAL PUBLIC
SUFFERED FROM STRIKE. TOWARDS END OF STRIKE SHORTAGES
OF FEED APPEARED CAUSING MUCH EMERGENCY SLAUGHTERING OF
CHICKENS AND PIGS. PRIME MINISTER MIETTUNEN AT
ONE POINT ASKED STRIKERS TO PERMIT FEED DELIVEREIS TO FARMERS
BUT HIS REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN. LICENSING BUREAU
DID NOT GRANT LICENSES FOR FEED, AND IN ANY CASE STRIKE
OF LONGSHOREMEN (STILL ON) AND MERCHANT MARINE (SETTLED
APRIL 11) WOULD HAVE PREVENTED EMERGENCY IMPORTS BY
SEA.
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2. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION (MTK) SUMMARIZED STRIKE EFFECTS AS FOLLOWS:
(A) ALMOST ALL MILK PRODUCED DURING STRIKE WAS DELIVERED TO DAIRIES WHERE BUTTER FAT EXTRACTED. SINCE ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF MILK PRODUCTS COULD BE PRODUCED, MUCH SKIMMED MILK HAD TO BE DUMPED AND FARMERS DID NOT RECEIVE FULL COMPENSATION FOR MILK. PRODUCTION OF BUTTER INCREASED DURING STRIKE AND BUTTER STOCKPILE INCREASED BY 1000-2000 TONS.
(B) EGG PRODUCTION DECREASED SLIGHTLY DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FEED, BUT EGGS WERE IN SURPLUS BEFORE STRIKE.
(C) REGULAR SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS WAS IMPOSSIBLE WHILE ABATTOIR WORKERS ON STRIKE. AS A RESULT, ANIMALS GREW TOO LARGE, INCREASING QUANTITY OF MEAT RECEIVED PER ANIMAL, BUT AT SAME TIME LOWERING QUALITY.
EMERGENCY SLAUGHTERING OF CHICKENS AND PIGS WAS NEEDED DUE TO FEED SHORTAGE AND SLAUGHTERHOUSE WORKERS AGREED TO DO EMERGENCY WORK. QUANTITY OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 20,000 CHICKENS WERE SLAUGHTERED. AT PRESENT THERE IS SURPLUS OF 5,000 - 10,000 TONS OF BEEF AND PORK WHICH NEEDS TO BE EXPORTED.
(D) TOTAL ECONOMIC LOSSES SUFFERED BY FARMERS ARE NOT YET KNOWN, BUT GOF INTENDS TO PREPARE SPECIAL ESTIMATE OF LOSSES CAUSED BY THE STRIKE TO THIRD PARTIES. MTK WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION FOR THE FARMERS.

3. THE ABOVE AVERAGE WAGE INCREASES GRANTED TO FOOD INDUSTRY WORKERS WILL CUT INTO THE MARGINS OF FOOD PROCESSING ENTERPRISES, WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK EARLY COMPENSATING INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES.
HOUSTON

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NNN

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